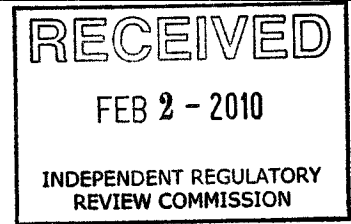


From: Jeff Christy [jchristy@alphanr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 10:15 AM
To: EP, RegComments
Cc: Doberlan@pahousegop.com
Subject: Proposed Rule Making - Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers



To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the Board's proposed regulation of outdoor wood-fired boilers (OWBs) for several reasons. This is just another government intrusion into our lives, which we, the citizens of Pennsylvania are sick and tired of.

I live in rural Armstrong County, and many people rely on these OWBs as their primary heat source. I have a few neighbors that have boilers installed, and this will have a detrimental impact on ALL of them. One in particular is a retired couple living on Social Security. The cost to them to meet your ridiculous requirements will be devastating.

The majority of residents in my neighborhood, including me, use wood as a heating source in the winter. This is because natural gas was unavailable until just recently, although we live in the middle of a major gas field. Electric or oil heat was the only other option. Not everyone uses an OWB, but they are becoming more popular.

For the sake of arguing, let's assume closest existing OWB is less than 500 feet from my dwelling. The surface elevation at my home is approximately 30 feet higher than the existing OWB. I have a two story home, with the highest peak rising 26 feet above the surface. Therefore, my roof is about 56 feet higher than the surface elevation of the OWB. Assuming the OWB is 6 feet high, the OWB stack will be required to rise 52 feet above the existing OWB. This is absolutely insane !!! What type of structural design is going to be necessary to construct a 52 ft. high stack? Maybe the board believes you can just stick 13 - 4 ft. joints of pipe together and have it stand up. If one COULD construct such a stack, the material cost will be approaching \$2000.

I am sure there are situations that will be significantly worse than the one noted above. Western PA is not as flat the Harrisburg area.

Additionally, I didn't notice bituminous coal as an approved fuel source. People DO burn coal in their boilers. It's an inexpensive, readily available fuel source for many residents. It doesn't require all the work and effort that wood does. Coal is a popular choice among older residents. Oh, but who cares. This is about saving the environment, right?

Meeting the 150 feet setback from a property line will prohibit many people from being able to install an OWB. This seems to be an arbitrary distance that obviously wasn't given much thought.

In simple terms, this proposal stinks. It's another unfair intrusion into the lives of the great citizens of this Commonwealth. We are growing tired of it, and are angry about it. We own our property, but all of the regulations prohibit us from full enjoyment of it. We can't build on it without a permit. We can't put sewage on it, without a permit. We can't put in a driveway without a permit. We can't disturb the surface without a permit. We can't do a thing, except pay the taxes, without a permit.

It is time that the regulators of this state get the message. We are fed up being regulated. The citizens of this Commonwealth and this great country are starting to fight back. We want our state and our country back. I believe the message was loud and clear last night in Massachusetts. That was just the beginning.

I urge you to listen to the Representatives that sent a letter of objection to the Board. They represent the desires and wishes of their constituents.

Jeffery L. Christy, PE
1034 State Route 2003
Rural Valley, PA 16249
(724) 771-0609